

Serial No. 10/775,745
Amdt. Dated 2 November 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 24 2006

Amendment to the Drawing

Please replace the single Figure of the drawing with the attached Figs. 1-3.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In this, the first Action in the case, the Examiner objected to the drawing under 35 C.F.R. §1.83(a) for not showing features of the invention specified in the claims. In response, applicant has added Figs. 2-3 to the drawing, has amended the specification to include reference numbers of the drawing, and has moved the explanatory text from original Fig. 1 into the specification. No new matter is added by the new figures, as is evident from the amended text which shows correspondence between the disclosure and the drawing elements. Applicant therefore requests that the objection to the drawing as amended be withdrawn.

The Examiner also rejected all claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U. S. pat. no. 5,721,939 (Kaplan). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

From the viewpoint of its relevance to the present application, Kaplan merely discloses that text can be represented by a finite-state machine, and that a plurality of texts can be represented by a single merged finite-state machine.

In contrast, applicant's claims are directed to a merged finite-state machine for a multi-counter that is augmented with state value lists. Neither state value lists, nor their use to augment a finite-state machine, nor the use of the augmented finite-state machine to evaluate a multi-counter, are disclosed, taught, or suggested by Kaplan. Kaplan therefore cannot be said to render applicant's claims unpatentable, and applicant requests that the Section 102(b) rejection of his claims over Kaplan be withdrawn.

Applicant has taken this opportunity to improve the form and specificity of his claims. None of these amendments were necessitated by the prior-art rejection of the claims.

Applicant has also taken this opportunity to comport the "Cross Reference to Related Applications" to the format recommended in MPEP §201.11, pp. 200-64 (Rev. 5, Aug. 2006).

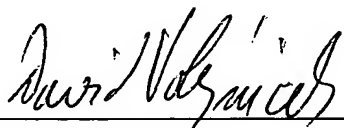
Applicant has further taken this opportunity to correct an omission on page 61, line 4, of the specification. No new matter is added thereby; the correction of this omission is fully supported by the example described on page 7, in numbered items 3-7.

The Examiner's objection and rejection having been properly responded to and overcome, applicant suggests that the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore requests that the application be reconsidered and thereafter be passed to issue.

Applicant considers the foregoing to be dispositive of all issues in the application. But if the Examiner should deem that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution, he is invited to call applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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